Applicants: Botha, et al.
Serial No.: 09/779,237

EXHIBIT B

Clean Version Of Amended Paragraphs Of The Specification

Please amend lines 8-26 of specification page 2 as follows:

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the activity of the PFP enzyme is down regulated by the introduction of an untranslatable form or an antisense form of the nucleotide sequence as set out in Figure 1 (SEQ. ID No: 1), a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to the nucleotide sequence of Figure 1 (SEQ. ID No: 1), a variant of the nucleotide sequence of Figure 1 (SEQ. ID No: 1), a portion of the nucleotide sequence of Figure 1 (SEQ. ID No: 1), or a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of Figure 1 (SEQ. ID No: 1), under stringent hybridization conditions.

The untranslatable or antisense nucleotide sequence may be introduced to the plant using plant expression vectors such as pUSPc 510 or pASPc 510.

According to the invention an isolated nucleotide sequence comprises:

(i) a nucleotide sequence as set out in Figure 1 (SEQ. ID No: 1);

(ii) a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to the nucleotide sequence of (i);

(iii) a variant of the nucleotide sequence of (i);

(iv) a portion of the nucleotide sequence of (i); or

(v) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of (i) under stringent hybridization conditions.

The nucleotide sequence may be the nucleotide sequence as set out in Figure 2 (SEQ. ID No: 2).

Please amend the last paragraph of specification page 4 as follows:

Figure 1 is the nucleotide sequence of the 1170 base pair (bp) cDNA fragment of clone PFP#5, containing the 3' end of the sugarcane PFP_{β} gene used in the construction of the plant expression vectors pUSPc 510 and pASPc 510 (SEQ. ID No: 1);

Please amend lines 1 and 2 of specification page 5 as follows:

Figure 2 is the complete cDNA nucleotide sequence of the sugarcane PFP_{β} gene (SEQ. ID No: 2);

Please amend the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs of specification page 6 as follows:

A first step of the invention was the cloning and characterization of a sugarcane PFP_{β} cDNA fragment. A set of degenerate primers was designed, based on the consensus of the castor bean and potato PFP_{β} gene sequences. These primers were used to amplify a fragment from sugarcane leafroll RNA which was then used as a probe to screen a sugarcane leafroll cDNA library for putative PFP_{β} clones. The sequence of the insert of one such clone is shown as an example in Figure 1 (SEQ. ID No: 1). This sequence contains a 1170 bp cDNA fragment. The complete sugarcane PFP_{β} coding sequence, as

shown in Figure 2 (SEQ. ID No: 2), was obtained by sequencing other cDNA and gDNA (genomic DNA) library clones.

The PFP_{β} cDNA fragment shown in Figure 1 (SEQ. ID No: 1) was excised and cloned into the plant expression vector pUBI 510 which confers high-level constitutive gene expression in sugarcane cells. One of the vectors, termed pUSPc 510, shown in Figure 3, contains a fragment in the sense orientation but it lacks a translation initiation codon, and is thus untranslatable. The other vector, termed pASPc 510, shown in Figure 4, contains a fragment in the antisense orientation.

Please amend lines 1 and 2 of specification page 8 as follows:

$_{\beta}$ coding sequence, as presented in Figure 2 (SEQ. ID No: 2), was obtained by sequencing other cDNA and gDNA library clones.